

Cooper, Kathy

2976

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IRRC

From: Sharon [sherryk2@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 12:56 PM
To: IRRC
Cc: csainato@pahouse.net; Evogel@pasen.gov
Subject: IRRC#2976 PA State Board of Education

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5 November 2012

Dear Respected Members of the Review Committee:

As a tax-payer and resident of the great state of Pennsylvania, I am concerned about IRRC #2976 and its impact on the school districts and students of Pennsylvania. From your site:
<<Regulation #6 – 326: Academic Standards and Assessment

Amends existing regulations to reflect Pennsylvania's Common Core Standards in English language arts; address test security concerns; and require students to demonstrate proficiency on the Keystone Exams in order to graduate from high school.>>

Honestly, I do not understand why Pennsylvania has to amend Chapter 4 to conform to national standards. I believe there must be more transparency and public debate about the true cost of "this conformity". In my opinion, \$41 Million from the federal government is not worth the estimated \$650 Million (the Pioneer Institute) it will cost Pennsylvania to press on with its implementation. I feel, especially during this time of belt-tightening, that we need to be good stewards of the tax dollars collected from our businesses and property owners. I believe that we have seen a decline in our public education system, over the past several decades, as more and more control slips out of local hands. Federal monies come with a price, conformity has a cost. I do not believe this will benefit our students or our districts by placing more federally mandated regulations upon them. I am not impressed at the notion of "teaching to a common core curriculum" or "teaching to the Keystone Exams". Proficiency tests do not tell the whole tale of our educational process, nor should monies received be tied to these tests. Please do not further tie the hands of local educators in our state. Let's table or open this matter up for further discussion at all levels.

Sincerely,
Sharon K. Leasure-Savage
New Castle, PA

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